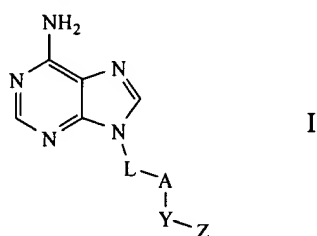


Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

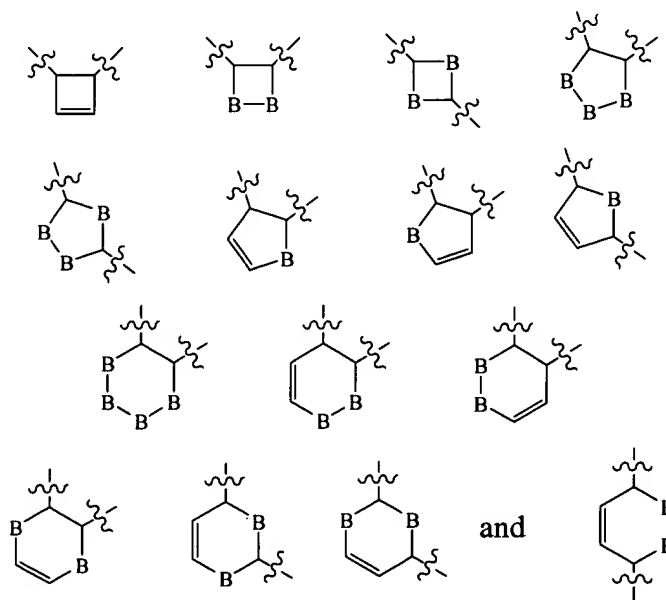
24. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula (I):



wherein:

A is a member selected from the group consisting of:

benzene, thiophene, furan, pyrrole, indole,



wherein

each B is independently selected from the group consisting of $-C(-R^1)(-R^2)-$, $-O-$ and $-N(-J-R^3)-$, wherein not more than one B in any ring is either $-O-$ or $-N(-J-R^3)-$;

each m and n is independently an integer from 0 to 4;

each q is independently an integer from 0 to 8;

Y is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$, $-(CH_2)_mO-$ and $-(CH_2)_mN(-J^1)-R^4$;

Z is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_nC(=O)-NHOH$, $-(CH_2)_nCOOH$, $-(CH_2)_nCOOMe$ and $-(CH_2)_nCOOEt$;

L is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$, $-(CH_2)_mO-$ and $-(CH_2)_mN(-J^2)-R^5$;

J, J^1 and J^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of $C(=O)$ and a bond;

R^1 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $-N(-J^3-R^6)(-J^4-R^7)$ and $-O-J^5-R^8$, wherein J^3 , J^4 and J^5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of $-C(=O)-$ and a bond, wherein at least one of J^3 and J^4 is a bond;

R^2 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $-N(-J^6-R^9)(-J^7-R^{10})$ and $-O-J^8-R^{11}$, wherein J^6 , J^7 and J^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of $-C(=O)-$ and a bond, wherein at least one of J^6 and J^7 is a bond;

R^3 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_8 alkyl, CF_3 and $O-R^{12}$;

R^4 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_8 alkyl, CF_3 and $O-R^{13}$;

R^5 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, CF_3 and $O-R^{14}$;

R^6 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, CF_3 and $O-R^{15}$;

R^7 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, CF_3 and $O-R^{16}$;

R^8 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, CF_3 and $O-R^{17}$;

R^9 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, CF_3 and $O-R^{18}$;

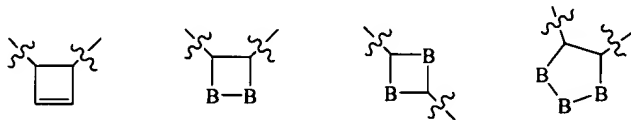
R^{10} is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, CF_3 and $O-R^{19}$;

R^{11} is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, CF_3 and $O-R^{20}$;

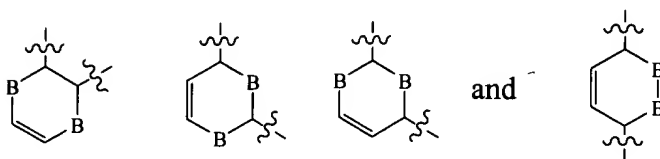
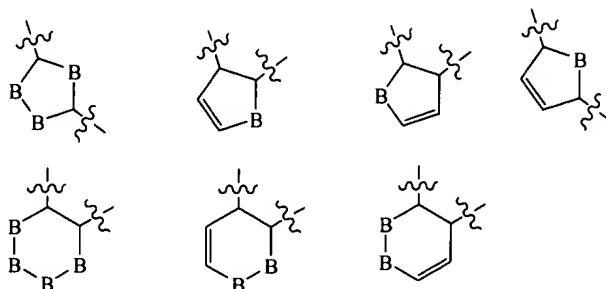
R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} and R^{20} are each independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_4 alkyl, cycloalkyl and benzyl;

and all pharmaceutically acceptable stereoisomers, salts, ~~hydrates, solvates,~~ and
prodrugs ~~esters and amides~~ thereof.

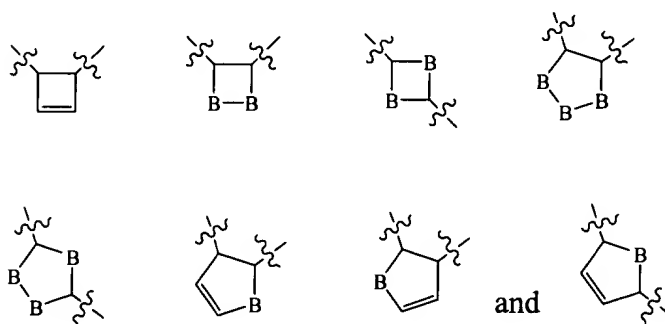
25. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 24 wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



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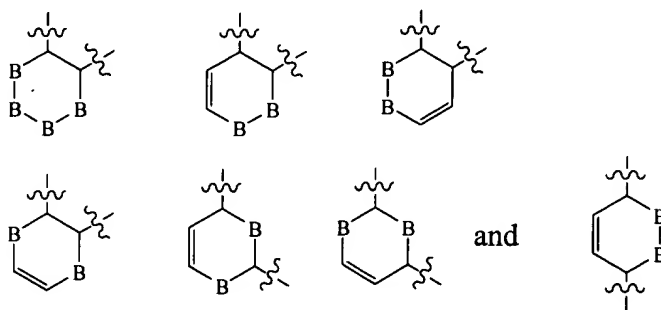


26. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 24
 wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



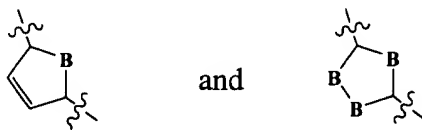
Y is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$;
 L is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$; and
 R^1 is a member selected from the group consisting of H and $-O-J^5-R^8$; and
 R^2 is a member selected from the group consisting of H and $-O-J^8-R^{11}$;
 and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 24,
wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



Y is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$;
L is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$; and
 R^1 is a member selected from the group consisting of H and $-O-J^5-R^8$; and
 R^2 is a member selected from the group consisting of H and $-O-J^8-R^{11}$;
and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 24
wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



wherein

each B is CH_2 ;
Y is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$;
Z is $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NHOH$;
L is $-(CH_2)_q-$;
each m and n is independently an integer from 0 to 4; and
each q is independently an integer from 0 to 8;
and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

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29. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **24**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

30. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **25**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

31. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **26**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

32. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **27**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

33. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **28**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claims 34-41 (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim **29** to a patient in need thereof.

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43. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30 to a patient in need thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31 to a patient in need thereof.

45. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32 to a patient in need thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 33 to a patient in need thereof.